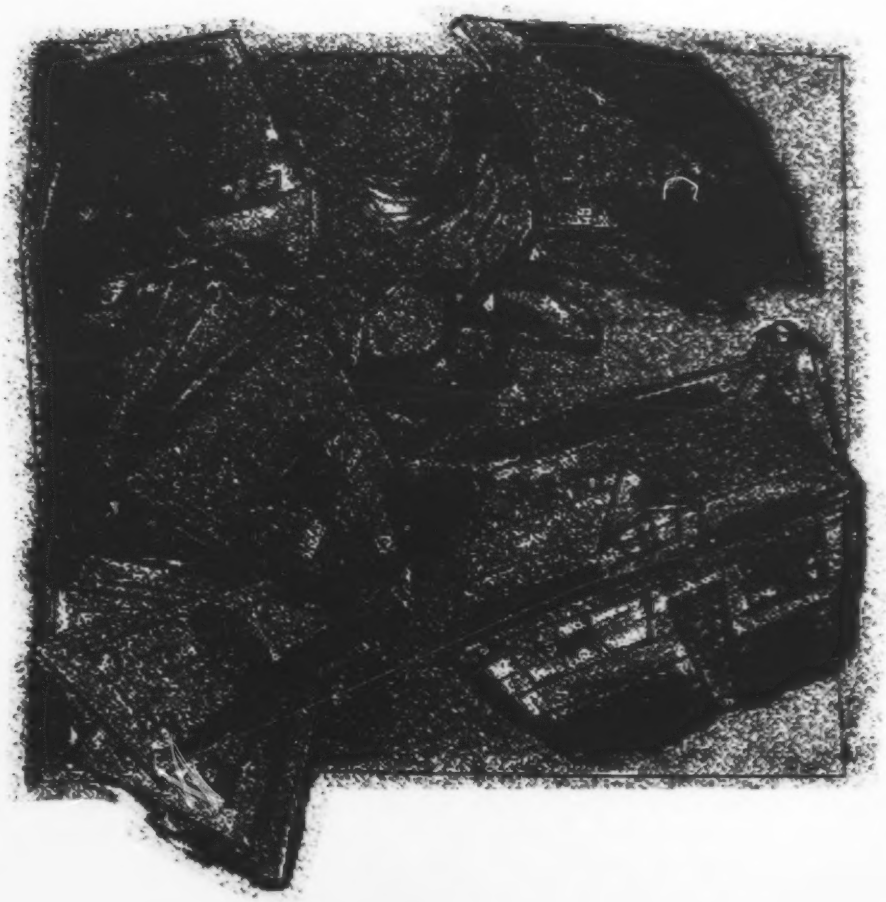
THE NEXT STEP

·A Guide To Government Services For Young People In British Columbia·

Fall 19[illegible]



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HELPING YOU TAKE THE NEXT STEP

The next step is a starting point to help you make decisions. It will help you discover available opportunities and access the information you need to make informed choices.

It contains valuable information about continuing your education, looking for a job, and managing your financial and personal resources.

The Next Step - a publication to help you plan for your future.

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THE B.C. YOUTH COUNCIL

As a young person in British Columbia, you have an opportunity to express your views on issues of concern to youth through the B.C. Youth Council. The council is the province's official link between youth and the provincial government.

The council is a group of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 from seven regions around the province. It meets regularly with British Columbia youth to get suggestions on what action the provincial government should be taking to address youth issues. The council's 18 members and chair then present these views to the government and work with decision-makers to see that youth's concerns are taken into account when decisions are made that affect them.

In the past, the council has made recommendations to the provincial government on national unity, reforms to the education system, recreation and leisure issues, child protection legislation and on lowering the voting age in B.C.

The council reports to the minister responsible for youth in B.C., who is also the minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology.

In order to better reach out to youth, the council has established regional committees around the province. The committees enable each region's council members to consult with a cross-section of young people in their communities.

In addition to making recommendations to government on youth issues, the youth council also administers the B.C. Youth Grants program. The program provides start-up funding for innovative projects that address problems or issues which directly affect youth, develop the leadership skills and employability of youth and which actively involve youth in their communities.

The council also publishes the B.C. Youth newsletter, which highlights the achievements and activities of young people across the province. B.C. Youth welcomes submissions and is always interested in hearing from its readers.

Council members encourage you to get in touch with them and make yourself heard. All young people are welcome to get involved in their regional committee or to contact the council member in their region. For information on the Council, the Youth Grants program or the council's newsletter, contact:

British Columbia Youth Council
5th Floor
1483 Douglas Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3K4
(604) 387-9167

CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION

The time to think about continuing your education is while you are still in high school. There are many options for furthering your education in British Columbia. The important consideration is your own personal long-term goal. Do you wish to attend a university or college, and if so, have you chosen a particular field of study? Or are you interested in job-related training and instruction? If you haven't completed high school, help is available too. The provincial government has many programs and types of assistance that can help you take the next step.

Guidance For High School Students

Academic and career planning - The counselling department of your own high school is the best source of information on preparing for advanced education or training. Your school counsellor can advise you on the requirements for entering a provincial university, college, or vocational institute, and can help you plan the courses you need to achieve your educational goals. If you've decided where to go after grade 12, you can obtain a detailed course calendar directly from the institution you have chosen.

Career preparation programs for Grade 11 and 12 students combine career studies, regular studies, and practical on-the-job orientation. They are tied in to similar programs at the post-secondary level. See your school counsellor for details.

Work experience program - If you're a high school student aged 15 or over, you can get actual work experience without leaving school. The program provides a non-paying job that interests you and is scheduled to suit the needs of both your 'employer' and the school. For more information, contact your school counsellor or work-experience teacher.

Advanced Education

Once you've finished high school you have a wide range of options for furthering your education in British Columbia. In addition to our four provincial universities, the choice includes 15 community colleges in centres around the province, the Open Learning Agency, plus a number of institutions offering specialized career training.

Professional And Degree Programs

The four provincial universities offer many undergraduate and graduate degree programs for the Bachelor to the Doctoral levels in the professions, business, the sciences, liberal and creative arts. As well, the community colleges offer a core of first- and second- year university level courses which are transferable to the public universities in the province. The Open Learning Agency also provides opportunities to earn a degree by studying in your own home anywhere in the province.

University degrees offered by the four provincial universities can be earned at Malaspina College, University College of the Cariboo and Okanagan University College.

Entrance requirements and admission procedures vary. For detailed information on admission to academic programs, contact the university or college of your choice. Check the resources section at the back of this booklet to find out addresses of the universities and colleges in British Columbia.

Language Exchange Programs

French - A number of programs are available to young people wishing to study French more intensively. Funded by the federal Secretary of State and administered by the Ministry of Education, the following programs are offered to students completing Grade 12 or enrolled in a post-secondary institution.

Summer Language Bursary Program - Bursaries covering room, board and tuition enable students to enroll in six-week immersion courses in French. Francophone students may apply for a special program when they are in grade 11.

Application forms are available in early January, but students can be placed on the mailing list as early as November. Deadline date for receipt of completed applications will be mid-February (date to be confirmed in the application booklet).

Official Languages Study Fellowships - A one time fellowship to encourage students to enter a full-time post-secondary program offered in French at a French Language or bilingual institution for a period of one academic year.

Application forms are available in early January, but students can be placed on the mailing list as early as November. Deadline date for receipt of completed applications will be the end of February (date to be confirmed on the application form).

Minority Travel Bursaries -Bursaries in the amount of two economy class return trips per school year to enable official minority language students (Francophone or Programme Cadre graduates), who are unable to pursue post-secondary studies in French within British Columbia, to study in another province.

Application forms are available in early January, but students can be placed on the mailing list as early as November. Deadline date for receipt of completed applications will be the end of May (date to be confirmed on the application form).

Official Languages Monitor Program - Part-time jobs (for post-secondary students) and full-time jobs (for people with at least one year of post-secondary education) as language monitors in second language French or English classrooms.

Application forms are available in early January, but applicants can be placed on the mailing list as early as November. Deadline date for receipt of completed applications will be mid-February (dates to be confirmed in the application booklet).

British Columbia/Quebec Six-Month Bilingual Exchange Program - A reciprocal exchange program available for a limited number of grade 10/11 French immersion and Programme Cadre de Francais students. Francophone students live with B.C. families for three months and attend B.C. high schools. Later in the school year, students from B.C. live with Quebec families for three months and attend Quebec high schools.

Applications to be made through participating schools.

French Teachers' Bursary Program - Bursaries to assist teachers of French as a Second Language, Immersion or Programme Cadre to attend credit and non-credit courses to improve their French academic and linguistic qualifications. The bursary covers tuition, transportation and living expenses for summer courses and tuition only for courses taken during the school year to a maximum amount for both.

Application forms are available in early January, but teachers can be placed on the mailing list as early as November. Deadlines will be mid-March for summer courses and early August for winter courses.

Modern Languages and
Multicultural Programs Branch
Ministry of Education
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 2M4

German - The Ministry of Education arranges three-month exchange visits for British Columbia students interested in German immersion. The German student attends a local provincial school during the autumn, and the British Columbia student later travels to Germany for the spring term. Education costs are covered by the Ministry, while the families involved pay for travel and accommodation. For details contact:

Student Exchange Coordinator
National and International
Education Branch
Ministry of Education
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 2M4

Interchange on Canadian Studies - This is an annual student conference for Grade 11 students from across Canada. Each year 15 students recommended by their schools are given an opportunity to attend a week-long conference to hear prominent speakers on a theme of national importance. The conference is hosted in a different province or territory each spring and 180 students from across Canada are billeted with 180 host students. The Ministry of Education coordinates the program, pays the registration fees for the 15 B.C. student delegates and travel costs within the province. National travel costs are funded through the Secretary of State. For information contact the Student Exchange Coordinator.

Employment Training Opportunities

In today's job market, many positions require training beyond high school. And with so many people competing for jobs, you need specialized skills and knowledge to find employment. You can get the skills you need through technical, vocational or trades-related programs offered in community colleges and institutes throughout the province.

Career/Technical Programs - These are offered by community colleges and institutes in British Columbia. These programs are generally two years long and prepare you for careers in areas such as health occupations, engineering technologies, business management, computer technologies and the applied and performing arts. Many of these programs also provide the educational foundation you need to start a business of your own. For information contact the college or institute of your choice.

Vocational Programs - These teach theoretical and practical skills that enable students to compete for jobs in a broad range of vocational areas. Community colleges and institutes offer programs in business and commerce, community services, health programs, tourism and personal services, and natural resources programs. For more information on vocational courses, contact your nearest community college or institute listed in the resources section of this booklet.

Trades-Related Programs - If you are interested in entering a trade such as carpentry, plumbing, automotive mechanics, electrical, millwright or autobody repair, you can prepare yourself through the Entry Level Program. Training opportunities for trade occupations are offered at most colleges and institutes in British Columbia. Many of these programs assist young people in entering apprenticable trades. For information, contact the career counsellors at the college or institute nearest you.

Apprenticeship Training - The Apprenticeship Training Program is a proven way to learn valuable trade skills while earning an income. Offered by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology in cooperation with employers in many industries, the program combines practical training on the job with classroom instruction.

Apprenticeships are open to both men and women. For details contact an Employment Training Counsellor located in your local Job Training Area Office, listed in the resources section at the back of this booklet. Or write:

Job Training Branch
Ministry of Advanced Education,
Training and Technology
Room 200, 4946 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 4J6

Correspondence Courses

Correspondence credit courses are available from Primary to Grade 12. Courses follow the regular school curriculum. For details contact the Principal of the Regional Correspondence School for your area. The addresses are listed in the resource section of this booklet.

Correspondence and Distance Learning Branch
Ministry of Education
633 Courtney Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4W6

Special Education Programs

Many young people have special educational needs which cannot be met adequately by regular school programs. To meet these needs, the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with local school boards, offers a wide range of special education programs and services.

Programs are available for students who are mentally handicapped, or have physical disabilities, are visually impaired, hearing impaired, or have severe learning disabilities or social or emotional adjustment difficulties. A variety of programs is also provided for gifted students.

Services include: identification and assessment services, and speech and language services. Personal care attendants help dependent disabled students who require assistance with feeding, dressing, using washroom facilities, and moving around the classroom and school. Students who are ill for prolonged periods may receive educational services through teachers of the homebound and hospitalized.

Programs are available in a variety of settings throughout the province, most commonly within the school system, either in regular or special classes. Provincial resources programs are also available in a number of centres. Some of these provide educational programs in hospitals and treatment centres, and in the case of young people in conflict with the law, in containment and attendance centres.

For more information on special education programs and services available in your area, contact your local school board or write:

Special Education Branch
Ministry of Education
844 Courtney Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Re-Entering The School System

If you have not finished high school, there are a number of special programs available to help you re-enter the school system.

Rehabilitation resources - These are available to help young people having serious trouble at school or who have dropped out of school. Programs include the services of social workers as well as teachers and are designed to assist young people to acquire basic academic and social skills so they can either re-enter the regular school system or go on to further training or employment. Referrals are made by schools, social workers or probation officers. For details, contact your local school board.

The General Education Development (GED) test - This allows young people who have not completed grade 12 to obtain a high school equivalency diploma which may allow them to take certain post-secondary courses. To write the set of five GED tests, you must be 19 years of age or over and have been out of school for at least one academic year. Please note that the tests are not acceptable for all courses at all post-secondary institutions. For details contact your local community college or write:

Information Management Branch
Ministry of Education
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 2M4

Adult Basic Education - There are programs for completing secondary school courses available through Adult Basic Education. Offered at colleges and institutes and through the continuing education departments of high schools, these programs are available to anyone who has been out of school for more than a year. The resources section at the back of this booklet lists all the B.C. colleges and institutes. Colleges and institutes are not entitled to issue Ministry of Education graduation diplomas.

Learning At Home

If you would like to continue your education but for one reason or another cannot attend a university or college, you may be interested in opportunities to learn at home. Distance education programs are ideal if, because of geography, travel difficulties, work, family commitments, or other reasons, you cannot attend regular classes on site at a college or university.

Through the Open Learning Agency (OLA), you can study for a degree, diploma, certificate or simply for personal interest. Study takes place at a time and place most suited to your needs.

Most registered OLA students receive a course package in the mail, containing materials specially designed for home study. This package may include: workbooks, course notes, textbooks, audiotapes and/or videotapes. Some courses involve the use of computer software, telephone conferencing, computer conferencing and/or lab kits. A number of courses are supported by programs on the Knowledge Network, the agency's educational television service.

As a registered student, you'll receive help from a qualified tutor no matter where you live in B.C. The Open Learning Agency offers more than 200 courses, ranging from non-credit personal enrichment courses to high school completion, and from occupational/vocational programs to university degrees.

For further information contact:

The Open Learning Agency
P.O. Box 82080
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6J8
Phone: 431-3300
Toll-free: 1-800-663-9711

Scholarship And Awards (Secondary Level)

Provincial scholarships are offered to Grade 12 students planning to enroll in a bona fide university or college. Provincial scholarships of $1,000 each are awarded to students who meet a specified minimum standard, and the top 20 students in the province receive scholarships of $2,000 each. Awards are based on performance in scholarship exams and concentrated preparation is recommended. If you're planning to write the scholarship exams, consult your school counsellor at the beginning of the school term.

The Premier's Excellence Award - This provides a $5,000 bursary to the top all-round graduating Grade 12 student, in each of the 15 college regions in British Columbia, who will attend one of the province's post-secondary institutions.

Passport To Education Program

The Passport to Education program was designed both to recognize current student achievement and promote greater student achievement in the future.

Students in grades 9 - 12 accumulate financial credits which may be used to further their education in post-secondary institutions or training programs recognized by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology.

At the end of each school year, schools award credits to the top 30 percent of students in B.C. public secondary schools and Group 2 independent schools.

Athletic Scholarships - These are available through the B.C. Athlete Assistance Program. Funding is available to students who are training to compete for Team BC at the Canada Games or in sports leading to recognized **Multisport Games** (i.e. Olympic, Pan American, Commonwealth Games) and Olympic level competition for the disabled. Funding levels range from $500 to $5,000, depending on the level of athletic performance and the academic status of the individual.

Athletes must be B.C. residents, and nominated by the Athletic Assistance Program selection committee for their particular sport. For details, contact your provincial sport organization at:

B.C. Sport
Administration Centre
400 - 1367 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9
Phone: 737-3000

or contact:

B.C. Athlete Assistance Coordinator
Sport and Recreation Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs,
Recreation and Housing
1st Floor - 800 Johnson Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 356-1180

British Columbia Sports Development Awards - These support a summer Sports Camp for selected junior secondary school athletes in five to seven sports which change each summer. Instruction, training, and leadership opportunities are provided in a variety of sports and related issues. **BC SCHOOL SPORTS** operates the camp with financial assistance from the provincial government. Secondary schools may nominate Grade 7, 8 or 9 students. More information is available from your school principal, athletic coordinator or:

B.C. SCHOOL SPORTS
330 - 1367 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4A9
Phone: 737-3066

Scholarships & Awards (Post-Secondary Level)

A wide variety of scholarships and bursaries are available to students at universities, colleges or institutes in British Columbia. Information on application procedures is available from the financial aid office at the institution you are attending or wish to attend.

World Scholarships - These provide funding for 12 students to attend a United World College (Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, United College of the Atlantic, United World College of the Adriatic). Grade 11 candidates are judged on personality, knowledge of Canadian and world affairs and on their ability and willingness to assume responsibility.

Information on scholarships for post-secondary education is available through your high school counsellors, the financial aid office at the college or university you plan to attend, or by writing to:

Student Services Branch
Ministry of Advanced Education,
Training and Technology
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-6100
Toll-free 1-800-742-1818

Cultural Fund Scholarships - These may be awarded to students wishing to pursue a career in the arts. Disciplines include: theatre, music, visual arts and crafts, dance and creative writing. Junior awards are available to students 15 years and over through to the second year of a university or college program, and senior awards are available to students beyond the second year university level. Awards are based on talent and other considerations. For details contact:

Cultural Services Branch
Ministry of Tourism and Ministery
Responsible for Culture
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 356-1718

Ministry of Women's Equality Bursaries - $500 awarded to female students enrolled in a program of women's studies or related course work, or a field in which women have not traditionally sought post-secondary training. The program must offer a degree, diploma, or certificate and recipients must have a high academic standing and be in financial need. For more information, contact the financial aid office at your university, college or institute.

Student Financial Aid

A number of provincial financial aid programs are available to students in post-secondary institutions or registered private training institutions. If a lack of financial resources is holding you back, you may qualify for student aid. Details and application procedures are available from the financial aid office at each university, college or institute.

The British Columbia Student Assistance Program is comprised of the following programs:

Canada Student Loans Program - Funded by the federal government and administered by the province, the Canada Student Loans program provides assistance to students in the form of a repayable loan requiring no payment or interest until six months after the student ceases full-time attendance.

British Columbia Student Loan Program - Funded by the provincial government, this program provides a repayable loan to students whose financial needs exceed the maximum granted under the Canada Student Loans. No payment on principal or interest is required until six months after the student ceases full-time attendance.

Equalization Fund - This fund provides non-repayable financial assistance to eligible students in their first and second years of post-secondary study when their assessed needs exceed the basic federal loan provided to meet direct educational expenses. Maximum amounts are established for each program year. Students must successfully pass 60 per cent of a full course load in their first year to be eligible for equalization funds in their second year.

Supplemental Fund - This fund provides college-based Adult Basic Education Students at the advanced and provincial levels with additional, direct non-repayable financial assistance. Supplemental funds meet the first $1,000 of assessed need. Any assessed need beyond that amount is met by a combination of loans and equalization funds to the maximum amount established for the program year.

Loan Remission - Loan remission is designed to limit student indebtedness and recognize graduation from a program . Graduates must complete the program of study within the normal program length plus one year or two semesters. Students may apply for loan remission for amounts owing above the debt ceilings established for the total number of certificate diplomas or degrees they have obtained.

All students applying for British Columbia student loan assistance must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who meet British Columbia residency criteria. Applicants must be enrolled in at least 60 per cent of a full-time specified program of study, and must establish financial need.

Work Study Program - This program provides students in post-secondary institutions with employment opportunities. A new component of the program, Students Aiding Students, offers funds to help fellow students who need assistance because of physical disabilities or language problems.

Forgivable Loans for Disabled Students - Funded by the provincial government, this program was implemented to increase accessibility to post-secondary institutions for physically disabled students. Documented expenses for special equipment or assistance required by the student to attend classes can be forgiven.

For details on scholarships, financial aid programs and the work study program contact the financial aid officer at your institution or write to:

Student Services Branch
Ministry of Advanced Education,
Training and Technology
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: toll-free 1-800-742-1818

Forgivable Loans for Teachers and Educational Personnel - Up to $12,000 in student loan forgiveness is available to encourage teachers and administrators to accept employment in rural and geographically remote school districts. For information on eligibility requirements and application procedures, apply to the Ministry of Education through your nearest school board office.

Cooperative Education Program - This program combines students' academic studies with periods of paid work experience in related fields. Students usually alternate between full-time academic terms on campus and full-time employment. Students must apply for and be accepted into a cooperative education program. Once accepted, the cooperative education coordinator will assist students in finding suitable work placements. The employer may qualify for a wage subsidy through the Small Entrepreneurial Cooperative Education Grant program of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. For further information, please contact the Cooperative Education office at your university, college, or institute.

TACKLING THE JOB MARKET

Jobs can be difficult to find, especially for those lacking work experience or specialized training. A number of provincial programs and services can help you prepare for meaningful, rewarding employment. These include opportunities to gain work experience, receive training in a specific occupation, and increase your awareness of possible career choices.

The following programs provide funding for employers. It is beneficial to fully acquaint yourself with these programs and services and to actively use them in marketing yourself to companies as a prospective employee. An employer who is willing to hire you may be eligible for assistance under one of these programs.

For more information contact your local skills development office listed in the resources section at the back of this booklet. Or write:

Skills Development Division
Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Women's Equality

The Ministry of Women's Equality coordinates matters related to the social, economic and legal equality of women in British Columbia.

Issues being addressed by the ministry include:

- employment and training
- pay equity
- employment equity
- child care
- intervention and prevention of violence against women

For more information contact:

The Ministry of Women's Equality
756 Fort Street Victoria V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-3600
Fax: 953-3308

Income-Assisted Programs

If you cannot find a job and have no other source of income, you may be eligible for income assistance under the provincial Programs for Independence. Assistance is also available if you are working but your earnings are lower than the income assistance rates. For information contact your local Ministry of Social Services office, listed in the blue pages of your telephone directory.

Specialized programs may be available to people receiving income assistance to help them find work and become more independent. An Individual Opportunity Plan is developed for each person, using a variety of programs and services. If you are on income assistance, ask about the **Job Action Program,** which offers counselling in job finding and interview skills, or the other individual opportunity plan services.

Employment Preparation For Persons With Disabilities

A number of programs assist young people with special needs to prepare for employment. Services are also available for those requiring vocational rehabilitation.

Vocational Rehabilitation Service - This service helps people with physical or mental disabilities gain economic and personal independence.

Training Program for Disabled Persons - This program provides assistance to employers who hire individuals with disabilities and help them develop work skills. For details contact your local Job Training Area Office listed in the Resources section at the back of this booklet.

Personal Placement Program - This program creates training opportunities in the provincial government for disabled people to gain work experience that will help them obtain future employment. For information contact your local Job Training Area Office and ask to speak to a Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant.

Consultants help disabled persons prepare for and find suitable employment and can assist with special equipment to reduce or remove the effect of a disability where the disability presents a barrier to employment. For information contact your local Job Training Area Office listed in the resources section at the back of this booklet.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR HEALTH

British Columbians enjoy one of the world's finest low-cost medical care programs. Under the Medical Services Plan (MSP) of British Columbia, basic medical insurance is available to all residents of the province. You are entitled to coverage as your parents' dependent until you either reach 19 years of age, marry, or become self-supporting. You may remain covered by your parents' insurance until age 25, provided you remain a full-time student at a school or university, have not married and continue to be mainly supported by your parent(s). In this case, your status as a student must be verified annually in writing.

If you are no longer a student and are 19 years of age or over, you are responsible for having your own medical insurance. If coverage is available through your employer, contact your pay office for further information. Otherwise, you should register directly with MSP. In doing so, you will be asked to make premium payments on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis. A reduced monthly rate known as premium assistance is available to low income earners. For complete information, including a brochure on Premium Assistance, contact:

Medical Services Plan of British Columbia
P.O. Box 1600
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2X9
Phone: 386-7171

Vancouver B.C.
Phone: 683-7151

Other B.C. locations
Toll-free: 1-800-663-7100

Or visit your nearest Government Agent's office

Information can also be provided by your nearest government agent. Premium payments may be made at Government Agent's offices throughout B.C.

If you are planning on leaving British Columbia permanently, you are entitled to coverage for the balance of the month you leave British Columbia plus two months, provided premiums are paid. Upon arrival you should immediately apply to the health plan of the new province or territory.

If you will be outside the province temporarily, contact MSP for more detailed information about eligibility and benefits.

Supplementary coverage, obtained through a private insurance company, is advised if you will be travelling outside Canada.

Community And Family Health

Mental Health Services - A variety of services are available for young people experiencing severe stress or potential mental health problems. As a first step, it is usually best to ask your family doctor if a physical problem is responsible for emotional or mental difficulties.

If specialized assessment or treatment is needed, this can be arranged through your doctor or directly with one of the Mental Health Centres operated by the Ministry of Health. As an alternative, you may request a referral from your doctor to a psychiatrist.

For further information on provincial services, contact your local Mental Health Centre, listed under Ministry of Health in the blue pages of your telephone directory.

Forensic Psychiatric Services - These are available for emotionally disturbed young people in conflict with the law. In Vancouver and Victoria, court-ordered assessment and treatment are provided through Juvenile Services to the Courts.

Services for adolescents who are mentally ill or have severe behavioural problems are also provided at the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre. **Telephone 660-5813 (Vancouver).**

Health Unit Service

Public health nurses provide a variety of services in various settings such as health unit offices, homes, schools, and other community settings. Some of these services are:

- student counselling and education on such topics as reproductive health, nutrition, fitness, and stress management.
- expectant parent services.
- family planning counselling and education.
- immunization to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps and rubella, plus immunization for international travel.
- counselling and information relating to communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases.
- screening to identify vision and hearing problems.

For more information, contact your local Health Unit listed under the Ministry of Health in the blue pages of your telephone book.

Alcohol And Drug Programs

If you, or someone you know, has a problem with alcohol or drugs, specialized help is available through the Ministry of Health.

For information about drug and alcohol problems, and for referral to an agency who can help, call the toll-free **TRYLINE:**
1-800-663-1441

OUT ON YOUR OWN

Leaving home and moving into your own place is a major step in life. So before proceeding, it's a good idea to consider some of the potential problems. The consumer education course offered in British Columbia high schools looks at the pros and cons of living on your own. If you've made the decision to leave home, advice is available to help you take this step.

Choosing An Apartment

There are many things to consider when choosing your first apartment. For example, does your rent include utilities or are these extra? It's best to know *before* you move. To help you, the Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services offers a booklet, *Renting in B.C.* For a free copy of this helpful guide, contact:

Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services, Public Affairs Branch
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-3169

Rental Problems

Renting your own place is far different from living at home, and minor problems and concerns may arise. If they do, the best first step is to have a talk with your landlord. If that doesn't resolve the problem, you can get outside advice and assistance by contacting:

Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services
Residential Tenancy Branch
1st Floor
1019 Wharf Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-1602

Residential Tenancy Branch
4th Floor
5021 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4A5
Phone: 660-3456

Residential Tenancy Branch
Outside Lower Mainland
and Victoria
Toll-Free 1-800-665-8779

Social Housing

Rental assistance is available for low income families through the B.C. Housing Management Commission. The social housing program ensures that eligible tenants pay no more than 30 per cent of their income for rent. Priority is given to people based on need, including families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Wheelchair Housing Registry

B.C. Housing also maintains a list of units throughout the province - subsidized, market rental and privately owned - which have been adapted for wheelchair use, and a registry of people who need this accommodation. B.C. Housing matches people with vacancies , although landlords always have the final say in selecting tenants.

For information on qualifications and the availability of social and modified housing in your area, contact the nearest B.C. Housing Management Commission office, or phone or write to:

B.C. Housing Management Commission
1701 - 4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4G7
Phone: 433-2218

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PARENTS

If you are a young person who has already started a family, you know that you are faced with additional responsibilities. It's not easy to balance the needs of small children with your own hopes and desires. A number of programs are available to help young parents cope.

Day Care

In British Columbia there are several types of child day care that can provide supervision for children while their parents are at school or at work. You can choose from family or group day care in a licensed day care centre, or you can consider nursery school or even day care in your own home. Financial help with the cost of day care services is available through the Ministry of Social Services to parents who qualify. Your local Social Services office or Public Health Unit can help you find out what day care options are available in your area.

For pamphlets on day care in British Columbia and advice on choosing a day care centre, write to:

Communications Division
Ministry of Social Services
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Parenting Support

If you're having difficulties with your young children, you may need some help. It's important to take a break from the children from time to time - to find a few hours for yourself. If you don't have family or friends to leave the baby with, look into the programs at your local community centre. If you feel that you need help learning parenting skills, community centres offer courses and support groups. Social workers in the Ministry of Social Services district offices can refer you to programs and services you need to become a better parent.

Helpline For Children

This toll-free telephone service is available 24 hours a day to receive calls about possible child abuse or neglect. Use this line if you know of a child or a family that needs help. Trained social workers answer all calls and can give information and advice or arrange for immediate help in emergencies. To place a call from anywhere in British Columbia, dial "0" for operator and ask for **ZENITH 1234.**

Adoption Services

This program arranges for placements of children with adoptive families when their own parents cannot take care of them. If you are pregnant and are considering placing your child for adoption, you can get help in making this decision from social workers at the Ministry of Social Services.

For more information on these or other social programs, contact your nearest district office listed under the Ministry of Social Services in the blue pages of your phone book.

MANAGING YOUR MONEY

Few skills are more important to everyday living than the ability to manage money wisely. The basic rule is to live within your means. But that can be difficult with all the 'easy payment plans' for buying cars, stereos and other products.

Expert advice is available to help you decide what you really can afford - beginning with the consumer education course offered in high school throughout the province. In addition, the Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services offers practical information and assistance in two important areas: teen credit and debt counselling.

Becoming An Informed Consumer

It's Everybody's Business! Straight *Facts for B.C.'s Consumers* is a free package of information offering tips and advice on money matters, important information about renting, and facts you need to know about the working world. This package is available from the:

Ministry of Labour
and Consumer Services
Consumer Public Affairs Branch
6th Floor, 1019 Wharf Street,
Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-3169
Fax: 356-8102

Debt Counselling

If you're having difficulty managing money, counsellors at the Ministry's Debtor Assistance offices can help. Counsellors can also explain your rights with regard to debt collection practices. For sound advice on sorting out your personal finances contact the nearest Consumer Credit and Debtor Assistance office of the Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services, listed in the resources section at the back of this booklet.

A free booklet, *Consumer Guide to Credit and Debt*, may be obtained from:

Debtor Assistance Branch
Ministry of Labour and
Consumer Services
1st floor, 1019 Wharf Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-1747

Debtor Assistance Branch
4th Floor
5021 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C.
V5H 4A5
Phone: 660-3550

Debtor Assistance Branch
240-546 St. Paul Street
Kamloops, B.C.
V2C 5T1
Phone: 828-4511

Nanaimo residents phone toll-free to Victoria: 753-7151

Prince George residents phone toll-free to Kamloops: 562-9331

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

For civil legal purposes, you become an adult at 19 years of age. In criminal matters, however, you are subject to the procedures of the Young Offenders Act from ages 12 to 17, and are subject to adult procedures at age 18. Regardless of age, you have a wide range of legal rights in all areas of your life. A number of provincial resources offer advice and assistance relating to these rights.

Legal Information

If you require information about the law, you can call the Law Line, a telephone legal information service of the Legal Services Society. The Society also provides the Legal Resource Centre, a law library for use by the public. And the Society publishes a number of pamphlets described in the Publications Catalogue available from the Publications Clerk.

Law Line - 660-4673/74

Legal Resource Centre
2nd Floor, 1140 W. Pender
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4G1

Publications Clerk
Legal Services Society
3rd Floor - 1140 W. Pender
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4G1

Legal Aid

If you have a legal problem but can't afford a lawyer, the Legal Services Society may be able to help. The Society, which operates under the Ministry of the Attorney General, provides legal aid to individuals of limited means but there are certain restrictions. As a young person, you are eligible for assistance only if your parents are unable or unwilling to provide legal services for you. However, on federal offences a judge has the responsibility to appoint a lawyer when requested, if a young person is undefended.

Legal aid is available only for serious problems, not for minor disputes. Legal aid for youth is most commonly provided to young persons charged with offences, but legal services may also be provided for urgent civil matters involving family law, your livelihood or shelter. For more information contact the Legal Services Society in your area. You can find the address and phone number in the yellow pages of the phone book under "Lawyers" or "Lawyer Referral".

Your Rights In The Workplace

Young people with limited working experience may not be fully aware of their rights in the workplace. Wages, severance pay, maternity leave and other aspects of employment are closely controlled by provincial laws and regulations.

If you feel you have been unfairly treated on the job - or wrongly dismissed - expert assistance is readily available. For problems relating to any *nonunionized job*, contact the Employment Standards Branch through your local Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services office, or write:

Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services
Employment Standards Branch
4946 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 4J6

For complaints concerning *unionized* employment, contact the Industrial Relations Council office, or write:

Industrial Relations Council
1125 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2K8
Phone: 660-1300

Ombudsman

If you have a complaint against a public school or school board, or a department of the provincial government and are unable to gain satisfaction through your own effort, you can seek help from the Office of the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman has the power to investigate decisions made by any provincial body. This includes staff directly employed by the province, such as social workers and motor vehicle licensing staff, plus employees of government boards, commissions, and Crown Corporations (e.g., B.C. Ferries, ICBC, B.C. Hydro).

Don't let uncertainty stop you from inquiring when you feel unfairly treated. If the Ombudsman can't help you, the Office may be able to refer you to someone who can. For information or to make a complaint, contact:

The Ombudsman
202 -1275 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 1A6
Phone: 660-1366
Phone toll-free: 1-800-972-8972
Fax: 660-1691

The Ombudsman
1st Floor, #8 Bastion Square
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1H9
Phone: 387-5855,
Phone toll-free: 1-800-742-6157
Fax: 387-0198
TTD/TTY: 387-5446,
Toll-free 1-800-667-1303

Justice Services For Youth

Young people in conflict with the law are dealt with under the Young Offenders Act, which defines a youth as between 12 and 17 years of age. At age 18, an offender is considered an adult. Custody and community supervision of young offenders is provided by the Corrections Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General.

The branch provides Family Court Counselling services to help resolve disputes about child custody, visiting rights and maintenance. For more information contact any Probation and Family Court Services office listed in the blue pages of your telephone book, or write to:

Ministry of Attorney General
Corrections Branch
4th Floor, 910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Human Rights

The Human Rights Act, based on the principle that people should have equal opportunity, prohibits discrimination with respect to employment, rental accommodation, publications, purchase of property, or in public facilities such as restaurants. If you feel someone has discriminated against you in these or other areas, contact the nearest office of the British Columbia Council of Human Rights, or write:

British Columbia Council of Human Rights
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-3710
Phone toll-free: 1-800-663-0876

British Columbia Council of Human Rights
406 - 815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E6
Phone: 660-6811

Law Courts Education Society

The Law Courts Education Society is a provincially incorporated society. Its purpose is to provide province-wide legal education about the operation of the B.C. court system and criminal and civil trial procedures for schools, community groups, multicultural and native organizations and the general public.

The Society has a board of ten directors representing a partnership between the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Judiciary and the community. The Society's headquarters is at the Vancouver Law Courts. The Society has regional offices in Vancouver, Kamloops, Prince George, and Surrey and is delivering programs in the North, Interior and Lower Mainland. The Society is planning to open a regional office in Victoria soon to service Vancouver Island.

Society Services

Schools Programming

Education programs and courtwatching are available to Law 12 and Social Studies 11 students, alternate classes, grade six and seven intermediate level classes, and to college and university students. Services include: curriculum materials, orientation to the court system and daily court lists, courtwatching sessions and mock trial sessions. Judiciary and other court staff speak and answer questions about their roles. Special fairy-tale mock trials for primary students are part of the program's contribution to the Law Day Open Houses.

Community Education

A variety of community groups - from senior citizens to legal secretaries - also participate in programs designed to meet their special needs. Individual members of the public may join visiting groups or observe trials on their own. Daily trial lists are available, also with video programs and printed information.

Educational Materials

A major facet of the program is developing education materials (leaflets, wall charts, mock trial kits) on the B.C. Court system and trial process for schools and the general public. The program also offers professional development sessions on the operation of the court system to teachers and to some legal system personnel.

Multicultural and E.S.L. Programming

The program provides materials on B.C.'s court system in Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, French and Punjabi. Workshops and law camps on the court system are organized in the community for many language groups and English as a second language students. The Society is currently developing education programs for new immigrants.

Aboriginal Communities Programming

The Society is working with Aboriginal bands and Tribal Councils to deliver programs to community members and native bandschools throughout the province.

Community Events and Co-ordinated Programming

The program participates in many legal education committees and works in co-ordination with other legal education organizations to develop specialized curricula and programs. Regional coordinators are involved in the organization of Law Day Open Houses and other local community events.

Society Contacts

Provincial Office

Rick Craig
Executive Director
Law Courts
221 - 800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E1
Phone: 660-9870
Fax: 660-2420

Lower Mainland West Region

Sandra Morrison
Coordinator
Law Courts
219 - 800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E1
Phone: 660-2919
Fax: 660-2420

Lower Mainland East Region

Janice Itterman
Coordinator
Law Courts
14340 - 57 Avenue
Surrey, B.C. V6Z 2E1
Phone: 572-2276
Fax: 572-2280

Interior Region

Meegan Clemis
Coordinator
Law Courts
405 - 455 Columbia Street
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6K4
Phone: 828-4662
Fax: 828-4338

Northern Region

Judith Jones
Coordinator
Law Courts
301 - 1600 Third Avenue
Prince George, B.C. V2L 3G6
Phone: 565-6258
Fax: 565-6079

The Court System In B.C.

British Columbia's Court system has three levels of court, each of which hears different kinds of cases - Provincial Court, Supreme Court of B.C. and the B.C. Court of Appeal. Provincial Court handles minor criminal cases, traffic offences, family matters (except divorce), youth offences and minor civil suits. The Supreme Court of B.C. hears serious criminal cases, civil cases over $10,000, divorce, and appeals from the Provincial Courts. The B.C. Court of Appeal is the highest court. If a person disagrees with the decision handed down by the lower courts, in most instances, they can make an appeal to a higher level of court.

The Law Courts Education Society
219 - 800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E1
Phone: 660-9870

Lands Records And Registration

If you require information about the registration of land in the province, the Land Title Branch can assist you. The Branch maintains a register of ownership and other interests in land, and issues certificates concerning land ownership. Through a land title search a prospective buyer can determine who owns the land and any interest - such as mortgages, rights of way, etc. - currently registered against the land. For further information contact:

Land Title Branch
M1 - 910 Government Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-1903

Coroners Service

The British Columbia Coroners Service conducts an independent investigation into the sudden/unexpected or unnatural deaths of persons within the Province of British Columbia.

The results of Coroners' Inquiries or Juries' Verdicts of Inquest are available as public documents upon request.

If you have a family member or someone whose death came under the Coroner's jurisdiction and need information of the circumstances of the death, you may obtain same by contacting:

British Columbia Coroners Service
4595 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 4L9
Phone: 660-7745

Public Trustee

Under the laws in British Columbia, the Public Trustee protects the rights and financial interests of all children in the province until they reach the age of 19, when there is no one else to do this. The Public Trustee acts on their behalf until they reach the age of 19.

In most cases, your parent(s) or your guardian should handle this responsibility. However, if you do not have a parent or guardian, if there is a conflict of interest between you and your parent(s) or guardian, or if your parent(s) or guardian will not act to protect your rights or interests, the Public Trustee will step in to act on your behalf.

Office of the Public Trustee
#600-808 West Hastings
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 3L3
Phone: 660-4444

Voting

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees every citizen of Canada the right to vote subject only to reasonable limits.

If you are 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen, and have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months, you can register to vote. You can register on any business day by contacting your local Registrar of Voters either in person, by phone or mail:

Registrar General of Voters
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B. C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-5305
Phone toll-free: 1-800-742-VOTE (8683)

Young People And The Law

Young people and the law frequently come into conflict, with one another. This need not be the case. You share rights and responsibilities with the police and other people in this province. You will receive reasonable attention and equitable treatment at the hands of the police. However, your cooperation always helps.

The police are there to maintain public order and to deal with criminal behaviour. The police are largely neutral in civil processes. If you become a victim of what appears to be a criminal act by another person, you should not deal with it yourself, but, rather, promptly inform the police of the details. If you observe criminal behaviour committed against someone else, you should avoid encouraging that behaviour. The police are trained to deal with criminal behaviour. Your powers of arrest as a citizen are very narrow, and you will wish to avoid exceeding them..

There are almost 150 police detachments or departments in British Columbia. You will find those particular to a specific area listed in the local telephone directory.

If you are the victim of a crime, there are a number of victim assistance agencies active in the Province. Details are available in *BC GUIDE*, which is to be found in most Government offices. Specifics on police-based victim assistance may be obtained at any police station or by contacting:

Police-Based Victim Assistance
501 - 910 Government Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-1751
387-6924
356-5487

On even rarer occasions, you may believe that you have been victimized by a police officer or a police employee. Complaints should be addressed by you to the Chief Constable or the Detachment Commander concerned. If this is impractical or is not productive, complaints should be addressed to:

- In the case of any RCMP complaint:

RCMP Public Complaints Commission
840 Howe Street
Suite 970
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2L2
Phone: 666-7363

- In the case of independent police departments:

Complaints Commissioner
B.C. Police Commission
Quadra Centre
408 - 3960 Quadra Street
Victoria, B.C. V8X 4A3
Phone: 660-2385 or 387-0020

GETTING AROUND

If you have reached age 16, you may apply for a British Columbia driver's licence to operate cars or motorcycles. Driving can be enjoyable, but it's also a serious responsibility. Motor vehicle accidents, a leading cause of death or injury, are often caused by careless or poorly-trained drivers.

The Safe Driving Guide

The first step is to pick up a Safe Driving Guide from your nearest Motor Vehicle Office or Driver Examination Unit. The Safe Driving Guide outlines the requirements for applying for a learner's licence and includes information about the knowledge, vision and road tests you will have to take after studying the Guide. Two other manuals you may wish to pick up are: Co-Pilot: A manual for Parents of Young Drivers, and the Safe Riding Guide, which contains information on motorcycle riding.

Obtaining A Learner's Licence

Young people aged 16 to 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when applying for a learner's licence and must also bring a birth certificate or other suitable proof of age plus some secondary identification such as a valid student card. A knowledge test, based on the Safe Driving Guide, and a vision test must be passed before the learner's licence is issued. The cost for each knowledge test is presently $10.

A learner's licence is good for 180 days, however, at least 30 hours of practice driving over a period of 30 days must take place before a road test can be taken. Learners must have a licensed adult driver seated beside them while they practice driving.

Driver Training

It is strongly recommended that young people complete either a driver training course with a licensed driver training school or a high school driver education program before taking a road test.

Road Test And Licensing

When you have completed your training and you are ready for a road test, an appointment should be arranged with the Motor Vehicle Office or Driver Examination Unit. On your test day, the adult responsible for your training must be present to sign a statement of training. The cost of the road test is presently $30 and, when you qualify, your driver's licence will cost an additional $15.

Motorcycle Licences

The same procedure applies in obtaining a motorcycle licence - with one difference. After you receive your learner's licence you must wait 14 days before taking a short skill test (novice test). During the 14-day period you must be supervised by an adult motorcyclist with a class 6 licence, and you are limited to practising in daylight hours at speeds of less than 60 kilometres per hour, with no passengers, and on roads other than freeways.

On the day of your novice test, you must take your motorcycle licence and registration to a Motor Vehicle Branch Office where an examiner will test you. After you've passed the novice test, there's no need to have an adult accompany you during the rest of your training period. However; the daylight hours only, speeds of less than 60 kilometres, no passengers and no freeways restrictions will remain. You must wait one month after obtaining your learner's licence before you can take your final test. The costs are the same as for a driver's licence.

For information on obtaining other classes of driver's licences, contact your Motor Vehicle Branch office, listed under Government of British Columbia in the blue pages of your telephone book.

Automobile Insurance

British Columbia offers non-discriminatory automobile insurance, with young drivers paying the same rates as older motor vehicle owners, providing their driving record and type of vehicle are comparable. In British Columbia, points levied for various driving offences become part of your driver's record and are paid yearly, quite apart from any insurance you might buy as a vehicle owner.

If you are just purchasing an automobile, remember that you must arrange for license plates and insurance before you can legally drive your car. Insurance coverage is also mandatory for motorcycle owners. For rates and other information, contact any Autoplan insurance agent. When you purchase insurance, you will receive an Autoplan booklet. Read it carefully to find out about accident coverage and procedures.

Drinking And Driving

All too often alcohol is a factor in automobile accidents involving young drivers. To reduce this serious social problem, the provincial **Drinking Driving CounterAttack Program** encourages young people to actively participate in the fight against drinking and driving.

CounterAttack,which is administered by the Motor Vehicle Branch, Ministry of Attorney General, is a year-round program of enforcement, education, public information and research aimed at reducing the drinking driving casualties on British Columbia's roads.

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia which co-sponsors CounterAttack, provides training, source materials and assistance to students wishing to form Youth Leadership committees. The committees play an active role in promoting safe driving habits. Students wishing to become involved in CounterAttack activities may contact ICBC at 661-6651, collect, or contact either local police or a Motor Vehicle Branch office.

College students are also urged to become involved with the CounterAttack Program. Details are available through the Student Services Association of your local community college.

Special Transportation For The Disabled

Provincially-supported HandyDART buses offer low-cost transportation for those unable to use conventional bus systems. The special vans operate in Vancouver, Victoria, and a number of other B.C. communities. For information contact your local transit company.

YOUR LEISURE TIME

A number of provincial programs and services relate to the personal interests of young British Columbians.

In-Province Travel Grants Program

This program provides financial support to organized non-profit groups with travel expenses within the province. School groups and amateur sports teams are the major beneficiaries.

Awards are based on the number of travellers and the distance travelled.

If you belong to a group that might qualify for support, you can apply by writing:

Community Grants Branch
Ministry of Government Services
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Leadership Training For Recreation Volunteers

A joint federal/provincial program offers specialized training for volunteers involved in managing recreational, fitness, and sports activities. Known as the **Skills Program**, it helps local volunteer associations operate more effectively. For details contact the Recreation and Sport Division, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture.

Resources For Community Activities

Resource materials for people working in community youth organizations are produced by the Ministry of Environment. **Project Wild** offers workshops and a manual of activities for young people relating to wildlife conservation. The **Resource and Waste** package provides environmental information for young people interested in recycling. For further information on these materials and programs, contact:

Public Affairs and
Communications Branch
Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks
810 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Special Interest Courses

New hunters can gain a variety of useful skills, including the safe use of firearms, through the **Conservation Outdoor Recreation and Education (CORE)** program. The program covers a number of subjects relating to wildlife information and conservation, and is required for licensing of first-time hunters over 14 years of age. For details contact:

Wildlife Branch
Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks
780 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Prospector training is available through courses sponsored by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. These vary in length from a single weekend to several weeks, and can include basic rock and mineral identification, claim staking and much more. For information contact your local community college, or write:

Dr. V.A. Preto, Manager
District Geology and Coal Resources
Ministry of Energy, Mines
and Petroleum Resources
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Funding Assistance For Conservation Projects

Community youth organizations proposing projects that benefit wildlife or fisheries may apply for a grant from the **Public Conservation Assistance Fund**, a program set up to encourage public volunteer involvement in conservation. For further information, contact:

Public Conservation Assistance Fund
Wildlife Branch
Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks
780 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Recognition For Service To The Environment

Youth organizations, including schools, that have made a valuable contribution to the preservation and enhancement of the British Columbia environment may be nominated for an award in the Youth Group category of the **Minister's Environmental Awards**, a series of awards presented annually by the Minister of Environment. There is also an Environmental Education category for individuals or organizations working with youth. For further information, contact:

Minister's Environmental Awards
Public Affairs and
Communications Branch
Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks
810 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

The 4-H Program

A well-established part of British Columbia rural life, the **4-H program** includes a wide range of educational and recreational activities. Young people can join one of 24 different project clubs, the most popular being agricultural (beef, horse, dairy, etc.). While learning technical skills, members also enjoy social activities ranging from local club functions to regional and national conferences. In addition, members pursuing post-secondary education can apply for one of 12 4-H scholarships. For further information, contact your local Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food office.

Related to 4-H is the **International Agriculture Exchange**, which offers a rewarding travel and learning opportunity for rural young people. Participants live and work with host farm families in other countries for 6 to 8 months. The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food acts as contact for the program and can provide further information. Write to:

Manager Youth Development Programs
Farm Management Branch
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
101 - 3547 Skaha Lake Road
Penticton, B.C. V2A 7K2
Phone: 492-1320
Fax: 492-1309

Junior Forests Wardens Clubs for young people aged 6 to 18 meet weekly in communities around the province to learn about forest management, wildlife conservation, and silviculture. The groups are sponsored by the Junior Forest Wardens Association of B.C. For information, contact the local district office of the Ministry of Forests, or write:

Junior Forest Wardens Association of British Columbia
103 - 7342 Winston Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 2H1
Phone: 420-5392

B.C. Games

The B.C. Summer and Winter Games provide opportunities for young people to participate in sports with their peers from every corner of the province in a spirit of friendly competition. The B.C. Games encourage physical fitness and provide competitive opportunities for B.C. athletes aspiring to higher levels of achievement and skill in sports. For further information, contact:

B. C. Games
200 - 990 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 3K2
Phone: 387-1375

RESOURCES & OTHER INFORMATION

Most of the programs and services described in this booklet provide an address or a contact for further information. In some cases, where the name of the program or office is given without an address, you may have to look up the location or telephone number yourself.

To find the address of a provincial government office, use the blue pages of your telephone book. First look for the section on British Columbia, then locate the name of the ministry. Branches and district offices in each area are listed under the ministry responsible.

The following lists provide local addresses and phone numbers of some of the resources or provincial government offices referred to in the booklet.

Government Agents provide direct access to government for people living in small or isolated communities. Located in most smaller communities, Government Agents can provide information on all government programs, answer general questions and refer people to appropriate resources. They can also locate application forms for grants and programs and suggest reference material for youth doing school projects on government.

To contact a Government Agent's office, check the blue pages under Government Agents. Toll-free numbers are listed for communities with no Government Agent's office.

If you can't find what you are looking for or are not sure where to ask, ***Enquiry B.C.*** *provides telephone enquiry and expert referral services concerning provincial government programs. In Victoria, call 387-6121; in Vancouver, 660-2421; and elsewhere in B.C. call toll-free 1-800-663-7867.*

Colleges, Institutes & Universities in British Columbia

Community Colleges

Camosun College
3100 Foul Bay Road
Victoria V8P 4X8
Phone: 370-3000

Capilano College
2055 Purcell Way
North Vancouver V7J 3H5

University College of the Cariboo
P.O. Box 3010
Kamloops V2C 5N3
Phone 828-5000

College of New Caledonia
3330 - 22 Avenue
Prince George V2N 1P8
Phone: 562-2131

Douglas College
P.O. Box 2503
New Westminster V3L 5B2
Phone: 527-5400

East Kootenay Community College
P.O. Box 8500
Cranbrook V1C 5L7
Phone: 489-2751

University College of the Fraser Valley
45600 Airport Road
Chilliwack V2P 6T4
Phone: 792-0025

Kwantlen College
P.O. Box 9030
Surrey V3T 5H8
Phone: 599-2100

Malaspina College
900 Fifth Street
Nanaimo V9R 5S5
Phone: 753-3245

North Island College
Komoux Hall
2300 Ryan Road
Courtenay V9N 8N6
Phone: 334-5200

Northern Lights College
11401 - 8 Street
Dawson Creek V1G 4G2
Phone: 782-5251

Northwest Community College
5331 McConnell Avenue
Terrace V8G 4C2
Phone: 635-6511

Okanagan University College
1000 KLO Road
Kelowna V1Y 4X8
Phone: 762-5445

Selkirk College
P.O. Box 1200
Castlegar V1N 3J1
Phone 365-7292

Vancouver Community College
P.O. Box 24700, Station C
Vancouver V5T 4N4
Phone: 875-1131

Institutes

British Columbia Institute of
Technology (BCIT)
3700 Willingdon Avenue
Burnaby V5G 3H2
Phone: 434-3304

Emily Carr College of
Art and Design
1399 Johnston Street
Granville Island
Vancouver V6H 3R9
Phone: 687-2345

Justice Institute of British Columbia
4180 W 4th. Avenue
Vancouver V6R 4J5
Phone: 228-9771

The Open Learning Agency
P.O. Box 82080
Burnaby V5C 6J8
Phone: 431-3300

Pacific Marine Training Institute
265 West Esplanade
North Vancouver V7M 1A5
Phone: 985-0622

Universities

Simon Fraser University (SFU)
Burnaby V5A 1S6
Phone: 291-3111

University of British Columbia
Office of the Registrar
204 - 2075 Westbrook Mall
Vancouver V6T 1Z1
Phone: 822-2844

University of Northern B.C.
Box 1950, Station A
Prince George V2L 5E3
Phone: 564-4844

University of Victoria (UVIC)
Admissions Services
Box 1700
Victoria V8W 2Y2
Phone: 721-7211

Ministry Of Advanced Education, Training And Technology, Job Training Area Offices

Lower Mainland

200 - 4946 Canada Way
Burnaby V5G 4J6
Phone: 660-7100

#105, 2975 Gladwin Road
R.R. #5
Abbotsford V2S 6W8
Phone: 852-5922

3039 Anson Avenue
Coquitlam V3B 2H6
Phone: 775-0778

102 - 9030 King George Highway
Surrey V3V 7Y3
Phone: 660-8944

133 East 8th Avenue
Vancouver V5T 1R8
Phone: 660-6272

Vancouver Island

155 Skinner Street
Nanaimo V9R 5E8
Phone: 755-2335

1st Floor - 838 Fort Street
Victoria, V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-3698

Northern Region

#104-1508 102nd Avenue
Dawson Creek V1G 2J9
Phone: 784-2388

Skills Development Centre
Room 211 1577 7th Avenue
Prince George V2L 3P5
Phone: 565-6020
TDD 565-6918

3250 Eby Street
Terrace V8G 5H4
Phone: 638-3211

Interior Region

201 - 117 10th Avenue South
Cranbrook V1C 2N1
Phone: 426-1281

236 St. Paul Street
Kamloops V2C 6G4
Phone: 828-4522

200 - 1626 Richter Street
Kelowna V1Y 2M3
Phone: 861-7407

310 Ward Street
Nelson V1L 5S4
Phone: 354-6560

Ministry Of Health, Alcohol And Drug Programs Regional Offices

Victoria

1019 Wharf Street
Victoria V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-4791

Greater Vancouver

#509 - 4980 Kingsway
Burnaby V5H 4K7
Phone: 660-6536

Fraser Valley

302 - 10090 152nd Street
Surrey V3R 8X8
Phone: 660-8971

Okanagan - Kootenays

300 - 1465 Ellis Street
Kelowna V1Y 2A3
Phone: 861-7563

Northern B.C.

390 - 444 Victoria Street
Prince George V2L 2J7
Phone: 565-6757

Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands and Central Coast

610 - 495 Dunsmuir Street
Nanaimo V9R 6B9
Phone: 755-2311

Ministry Of Labour And Consumer Services, Debtor Assistance Offices

Vancouver

5021 Kingsway
Burnaby V5H 4A5
Phone: 660-3550

Victoria

1st Floor 1019 Wharf St
Victoria V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-1747

Kamloops

240 - 546 St. Paul Street
Kamloops V2C 5T1
Phone: 828-4511

Nanaimo

Phone: 753-7151 toll-free to Victoria

Prince George

Phone: 562-9331 toll-free to Kamloops
School Districts 59, 60, 81, 87:

Regional Correspondence Schools

Northern B.C. Regional Correspondence School

10704 - 97 Avenue
Fort St. John V1J 6L7
Phone: 785-1335 (Elementary)
785-1333 (Secondary)
Toll-free: 1-800-663-9511

School Districts 27, 28, 49, 55, 56, 57:

Central Interior Regional Correspondence School

Bag Service 7400
1788 Diefenbaker Avenue
Prince George V2N 4J7
Phone: 563-1818
Toll-free: 1-800-661-9717 or
1-800-661-7515

School Districts 50, 52, 54, 80, 88, 92:

North Coast Regional Correspondence School

Bag 5000
3211 Kenney Street
Terrace V8G 5K2
Phone: 635-7944
Toll-free: 1-800-663-3865

School Districts 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66:

South Island Regional Correspondence School

4575 Wilkinson Road
Victoria V8Z 7E8
Phone: 479-6839

School Districts 47, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 84, 85:

North Island Regional Correspondence School

2080 Wallace Avenue
Comox V9N 4J5
Phone: 339-6110
Toll-free: 1-800-663-7925

School Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 86:

Kootenay Regional Correspondence School

570 Johnstone Road
RR #1, Nelson V1L 5P4
Phone: 354-4311
Toll-free: 1-800-663-4614

School Districts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 48:

Greater Vancouver Regional Correspondence School

530 East 41st Avenue
Vancouver V5W 1P3
Phone: 660-7947

School Districts 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 42, 43, 75, 76:

Fraser Valley Regional Correspondence School

49520 Prairie Central Road
Chilliwack V2P 6H3
Phone: 794-7310
Toll-free: 1-800-663-3381

School Districts 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 77, 89:

Okanagan Regional Correspondence School

Post Office Bag 4700
Merritt V0K 2B0
Phone: 378-4245
Toll-free: 1-800-663-3536